

4. DESTINATIONS

Common Citizen Concerns

- Highlight the history and heritage of the river and its neighborhoods.
- Activate underutilized public spaces along the waterfront.
- Provide more funding for local landmarks and cultural facilities.
- Develop more cultural destinations east of the river.

Actions

- Entice more than 20 million visitors to enjoy waterfront attractions.
- Develop 10 sites for new museums.
- Develop 15 sites for future memorials at Poplar Point, Hill East, Southwest, South Capitol Corridor, and Near Southeast.
- Use the Navy Yard as the centerpiece of cultural destinations in Near Southeast.
- Create cultural parks at M Street, SW and Poplar Point.
- Create a network of environmental interpretive centers along the river, including Kingman Island and Poplar Point.
- Connect cultural attractions via water transport.
- Integrate Anacostia Riverwalk within the existing network of regional and National Heritage Trails.

The Anacostia waterfront presents an unparalleled opportunity to attract Washington's 20 million annual visitors "off the Mall and to the water." All sites available on the National Mall for museums and memorials have been claimed. But along the Anacostia River lie more than 25 waterfront sites for museums, concert venues, fairs, and commemorative places, among other cultural amenities.

By building on local culture and history, the Anacostia River will become the city's waterfront cultural corridor, complementing the Mall as a place of recreation, reflection, and enjoyment, and will spread tourism throughout the city, helping to bolster local neighborhood economies.

Historically, the urban settlement's proximity to water has been essential for citizens' transportation and sustenance. Today, being close to the water is equally valued for the natural beauty it affords. Waterfronts are becoming icons of cities as they attract people with vistas, offer sanctuary and repose and provide places to gather, interact, celebrate, and play.

Diverse needs and pleasures can be exceptionally well met along the Anacostia, but this requires careful planning. Creating cultural destinations and places of distinct character involves developing memorable shorelines with diverse elements: areas for civic gathering and celebration, entertainment, commemorative sites, museums, education centers, and unique recreational opportunities.

Building on the many historic and cultural assets that already border the river can bring this vision to life. The Southwest waterfront has a rich maritime heritage and is located only seven blocks from the Mall. The Washington Navy Yard is the nation's oldest such facility and the site of the Navy's Historical Center. Only blocks from Poplar Point is the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, and the Langston Golf Course and the National Arboretum are located directly along the river.

The Framework Plan capitalizes on these cultural resources and identifies the many opportunities to place additional cultural destinations along the river. Developing more waterfront attractions can make the river an appealing center for the city, rather than a disruptive edge.

The Tidal Basin, with its quiet, green, ceremonial destination honoring Thomas Jefferson, attracts more than 1 million visitors during the weeklong Cherry Blossom Festival alone. These visitors could be enticed to reach beyond the monumental core to explore the wonders of the Anacostia waterfront and its neighborhoods.

The Anacostia waterfront areas can be defined as a series of river basins, each with its own elements and character. The Framework Plan envisions an urban character in the lower reaches of the river, with esplanades, retail destinations, and waterfront housing; a more recreational character in the middle reaches, with waterfront trails, boathouses, and ball fields; and a more natural character in the upper reaches of the river, for bird watching, paddle craft, and enjoyment of the river's natural habitat.

All destinations along the waterfront must form an easily accessible, integrated system of gracious, beautiful, vibrant, and complementary places. Currently, the river touches too few of the city's citizens and visitors. The shores are simply not yet attractive enough for the Anacostia to be included with Washington's most cherished public settings. The pleasures and potential this river environment offers must be expanded upon and more broadly shared!

Cultural Destinations and Places of Distinct Character

- 79 The Vision
- 80 The Cultural Agenda
- 82 River Basins and Views: The Character of the Anacostia
- 84 Enhancing Relationships Among Existing Assets
- 86 Destinations for Celebration, Sports, and Recreation
- 88 New Places for Civic Celebration and Commemoration: Monuments, Museums, and Sites for Public Art
- 90 Design Guidelines for a Public Riverfront

A Continuous Public Riverfront with Places of Distinct Character

THE CULTURAL AGENDA

The goals of the AWI Cultural Agenda are to enhance and protect the distinct character of regional destinations along the waterfront; bring life to the waterfront; celebrate the

cultural heritage of the city and the nation; and create attractions and events to draw more than 20 million visitors to Anacostia waterfront sites.



“And how will we know when these seeds (that we are planting now) have grown into the one magnificent city that we are destined to be? We will know when we stand on the hill at St. Elizabeth’s and look out at the Anacostia and see people shopping, working, eating, swimming, boating, and bringing their out-of-town guests to see the jewel of our city.”

Mayor Anthony A. Williams,
March 2002

Existing Assets

- Existing waterfront assets should:
- Enhance new cultural locations.
 - Improve public transit access to existing sites.
 - Promote education and marketing of existing cultural resources.
 - Enhance existing sites with pedestrian amenities along the waterfront.

River Basin Character

- Highlight each river segment’s unique character and program areas accordingly.
- Integrate the character of maritime and upland uses – commercial, heritage, environmental.
- Highlight the Riverwalk as a continuous path through distinct river segments.
- Find synergy between neighborhood character and waterfront uses.

Destination Uses

- Ensure transit capacity near the river to support large events.
- Program special events for all seasons.
- Balance regional activities and tourist destinations with neighborhood quality.
- Host major events such as sports, festivals, and fairs to activate the waterfront and bring additional facilities to neighborhoods.

Commemorative Places

- Create gracious places along the waterfront to tell the stories of local neighborhoods and the nation.
- Attract local, citywide, and national cultural destinations to the waterfront.
- Incorporate Anacostia River history and heritage in new public-realm projects.
- Develop the Riverwalk as a waterfront heritage trail.

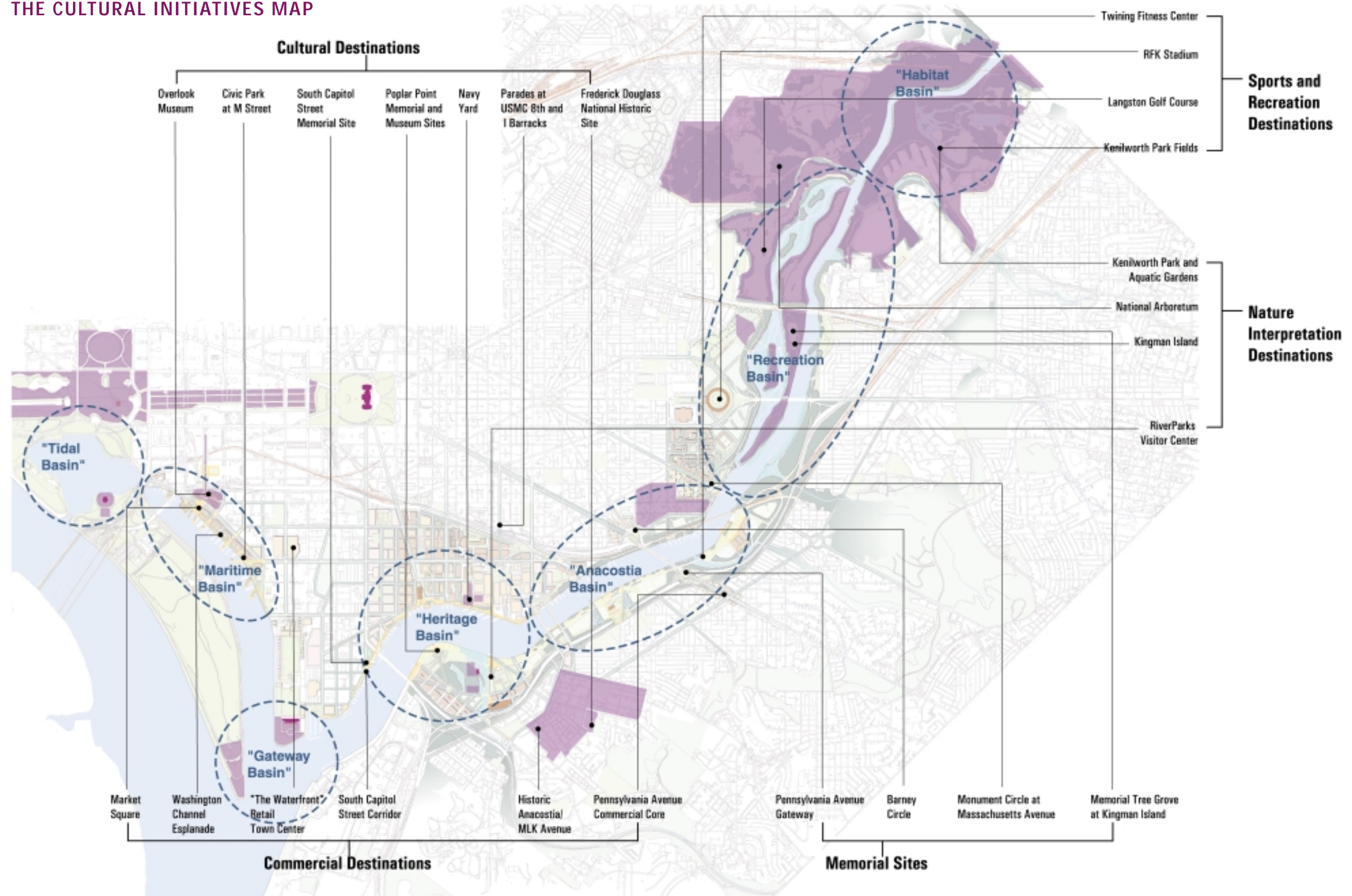
Design Considerations

- Capitalize on topography and maintain significant views in all designs.
- Provide measures for new development that preserve existing key view corridors.
- Consider sites for monuments and memorials where key axes of the city meet the riverfront.

Operations

- Integrate signage and improve way-finding for existing cultural assets.
- Forge partnerships between communities and landowners for effective coordination.
- Use environmental restoration as a theme for tourist marketing strategy.

THE CULTURAL INITIATIVES MAP



River Basins and Views: The Character of the Anacostia

“Critical to the vitality of the area will be the mixed uses – homes, businesses, restaurants, parks, and entertainment venues – that will bring in urban life.”

The Anacostia’s potential as a site for cultural facilities has been underappreciated for decades. Proposals for new monuments, opportunities for new development, and a new interest in existing historic sites and recreational settings near the river promise to put the Anacostia and its neighborhoods back on the map. The AWI Framework charts a course for highlighting the features of this historic area for the many city, regional, and national visitors who will benefit from discovering them.

One of the defining qualities of the Anacostia waterfront is its varied character as it flows from upriver parklands to its confluence with the Potomac near the heart of Washington, D.C. Perhaps the best way to appreciate this rural-to-urban progression is to view the river as a series of segments or basins, each with its own character, potential, and range of recreational and cultural opportunities for residents and visitors.

This view helps to frame the river as a center of activity rather than the edge of various districts. Activities and sites along and across the river should complement each other. For instance, the Anacostia River, now a center for boating, could soon become a center for strolling, hiking, living,

eating, and monument and cultural touring. The loop trails of the Riverwalk will allow people to circulate around a given basin – on foot, by bicycle, or by car – and will support thematic tours of each basin. The AWI Framework reinforces the character – or nascent character – of each basin, as should all future development.

The River Basins

Each basin described is characterized by a different scale and type of development on its banks, the river’s differing widths and, in many cases, the scale of the bridges passing over the river.

Washington Channel Basin

The Washington Channel (or “Maritime Basin”) defines part of the active downtown waterfront. Tour boats depart for various destinations from the Channel. While several marinas and restaurants have enlivened the Southwest waterfront for decades, additional development will add to its bustle and appeal.

The proximity of the Southwest waterfront to the Mall and Georgetown gives it special potential. Eliminating Water Street allows for new housing and retail shops, interspersed parks that connect Maine Avenue to the waterfront, and a new waterfront promenade with restaurants. Maine Avenue will be reconstructed as a landscaped city boulevard along the length of the channel, connecting the 10th Street Overlook to a new park at the terminus of M Street, where it meets Maine Avenue near Arena Stage. Existing plans for the nearby 10th Street Overlook itself include a new park with a museum or memorial and an inter-modal transportation facility beneath (For details, see pages 120-121).

Gateway Basin

The “Gateway Basin,” at the mouth of the Washington Channel and the confluence of the Potomac and Anacostia rivers, offers a sweep of open water and military institutions on either side of the Anacostia: Fort McNair with the National Defense University at Buzzard Point, and the Naval and Defense installations at Bolling Air Force Base across the river.

While security concerns prevent public access to these institutions, the planning and design principles outlined in this document apply to their shorelines. Views of the installations from the water can make an important impression. In fact, these sites are ideal for monuments and memorials related to military themes.

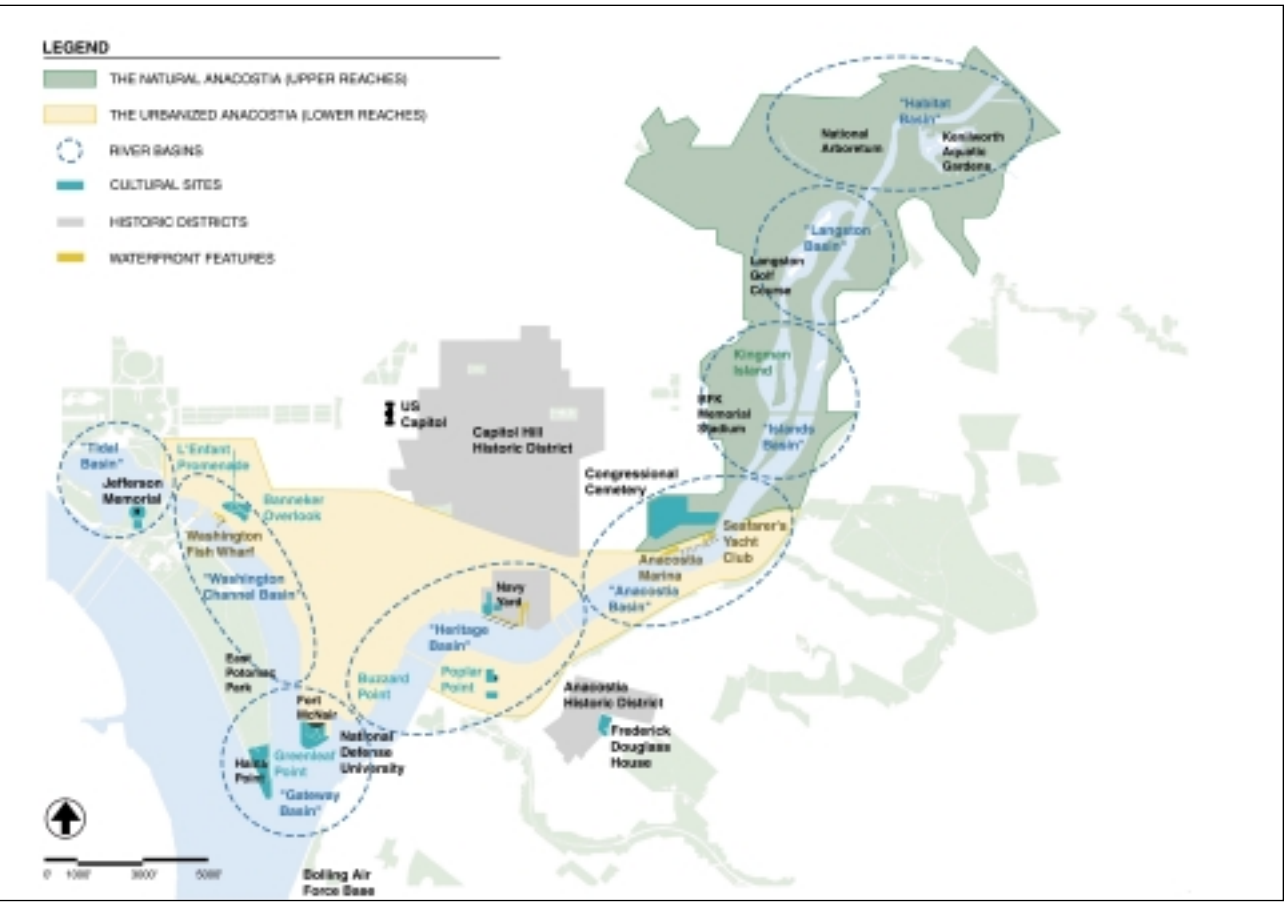
Heritage Basin

Upstream from the Gateway Basin, the “Heritage Basin” is framed on the west by the Navy Yard – a mile’s walk from the U.S. Capitol – and the Anacostia Historic District, one of the first African-American settlements in Washington, D.C. Here, the buildings along the river gain prominence as the Anacostia narrows slightly and bends gracefully at Poplar Point, creating closer, more varied views. This basin includes the 11th Street Bridges, originally the first across the Anacostia. Built in the 19th century, the 11th Street Bridges connected the Navy Yard to workers’ communities being built across the river in what were then considered suburbs.

With the prominent facades of the Navy Yard – a designated National Historic Landmark district – anchoring part of the basin, and large waterfront parcels on both sides of the river slated for major redevelopment, the Heritage Basin lends itself to cultivation as a ceremonial urban waterfront. Two large parcels of land, at the Southeast Federal Center, (next to the Navy Yard) and at Poplar Point, (next to the Anacostia Historic District) are government-owned, giving national and local agencies an opportunity to guide redevelopment.

Parts of the Navy Yard, including its ceremonial gate, were designed by Benjamin Latrobe, architect of the Capitol building. The National Capital Planning Commission has called for additional monuments at this prominent bend in the Anacostia, as described in its Memorials and Museums Master Plan.

Also critical to the vitality of the area will be the mixed uses – homes, businesses, restaurants, parks, and entertainment venues – proposed by the GSA at the 44-acre Southeast Federal Center site, which will bring in around-the-clock urban life. The Navy Yard enlivens the area mainly from nine



The River Basins
The different basins along the Anacostia showcase the waterfront’s varied character.

to five with the bustle of employees and tourists seeking out the Navy Museum. Across the river, Poplar Point, with extensive acreage owned by the National Park Service, is proposed for development as a cultural park with an amphitheater and monument.

Anacostia Basin

Between the 11th Street Bridges and the John Phillips Sousa Bridge at Pennsylvania Avenue lies the Anacostia Basin. Too shallow for ships, it hosts small craft such as recreational boats and rowing shells. This relatively straight section of the river, with its sluggish flow, provides the best rowing course in Washington, D.C. Marinas line the west shore of the river, and behind them a revitalized Near Southeast is taking shape. On the east side of the river, Anacostia Park forms a long green strip between the Anacostia Freeway and the shores of the river, soon to be enhanced by the Riverwalk and new park facilities. This area – green and developed, with heavy recreational use – heralds the transition to the pastoral character of the upstream basins.

Islands Basin

Only canoes, kayaks, rowboats, and dinghies can pass beneath the CSX railroad bridge into the calm “Islands Basin” of the Anacostia. This basin is mainly parkland, containing Kingman and Heritage Islands, located just off RFK Stadium in Kingman Lake and built by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1916. The D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation, with the D.C. Department of Health and others, is currently working to create new interpretive nature exhibitions, self-guided nature trails, and a memorial grove on Kingman Island. The new neighborhood at Hill East including the Meadows Park, and activities at RFK Stadium, along with the Riverwalk, will also influence the character of this basin.

Langston Basin

Langston Golf Course is the first public golf course built in the country for an African-American neighborhood. It is on the National Register of Historic Places and remains a popular attraction. Current plans to upgrade the course include a new clubhouse. AWI plans call for expanding the riverside forest and creating marshes along the shore to filter runoff and support native flora and fauna. Forest

buffers the golf course and river from the city. Sustainable management practices will enhance the environmental quality of both the golf course and the river.

Habitat Basin

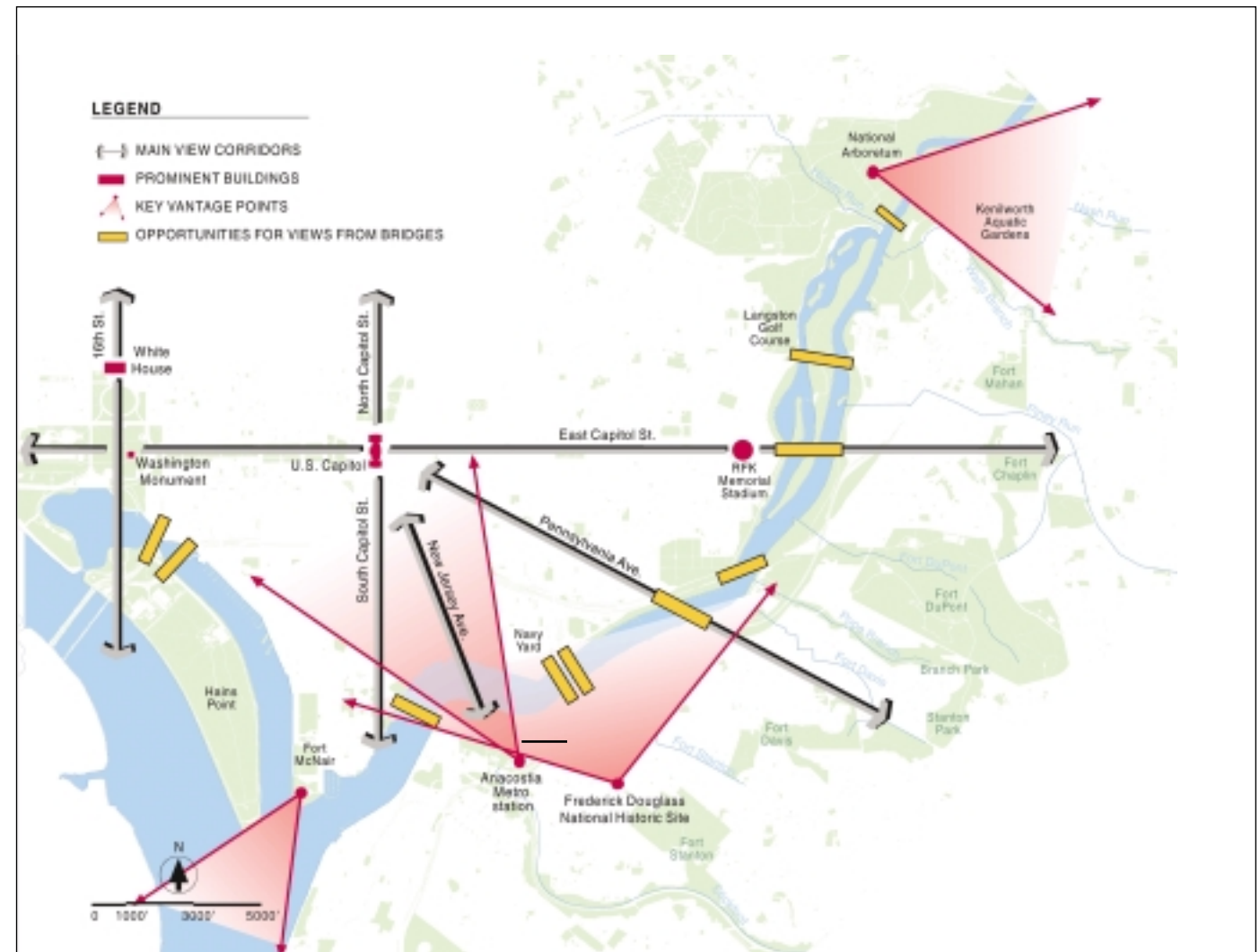
Further upstream, the Anacostia narrows between the National Arboretum and Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens to create the “Habitat Basin,” so called because of its importance as a wildlife habitat. Kenilworth Park, in particular, with the only remaining tidal marsh on the Anacostia, offers marsh, field, and forest habitats for local wildlife. Kenilworth Park offers a wonderful feeling of distance from the city. The ecology that provides this pastoral feeling in an urban setting should be preserved and enhanced.

Views

Washington's aesthetic character depends on the views and alignments created by the L'Enfant and McMillan plans: the positioning of monuments in relation to avenues, the Mall, the Ellipse, and other public open spaces. It is essential to sensitively extend this aspect of Washington's character to the Anacostia waterfront, where neither plan was fully implemented.

All improvements and developments along the Anacostia will affect the views up, down, across, and around the river, and should contribute to the drama and beauty of these vistas.

A brief survey of the most striking opportunities shows that the dome of the U.S. Capitol is visible from the waterfront at South Capitol Street and at New Jersey Avenue, making these logical monument sites. On the other side of the river, Poplar Point affords sweeping views of Washington, with the Anacostia River in the foreground. The hilltop Frederick Douglass National Historic Site and the Anacostia Metro station offer panoramic views of the waterfront. More detailed studies should inform the placement of all monuments and memorials and should shape the massing of waterfront development around them.



Views to and from the Anacostia



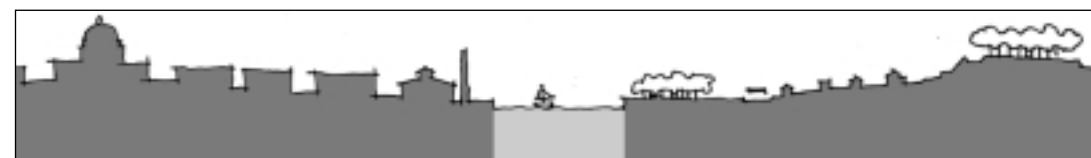
View from the Anacostia Metro station at Poplar Point toward the Capitol.



View from the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site across the Anacostia toward the monumental core.



View from the National Arboretum.



The Anacostia valley; offering many wonderful views from Capitol Hill to the Fort Circle Parks.

Enhancing Relationships Among Existing Assets

“These enhancements will create a new image of the Anacostia as a collection of cultural, historic, recreational, and natural sites of interest.”



Arena Stage in Southwest.



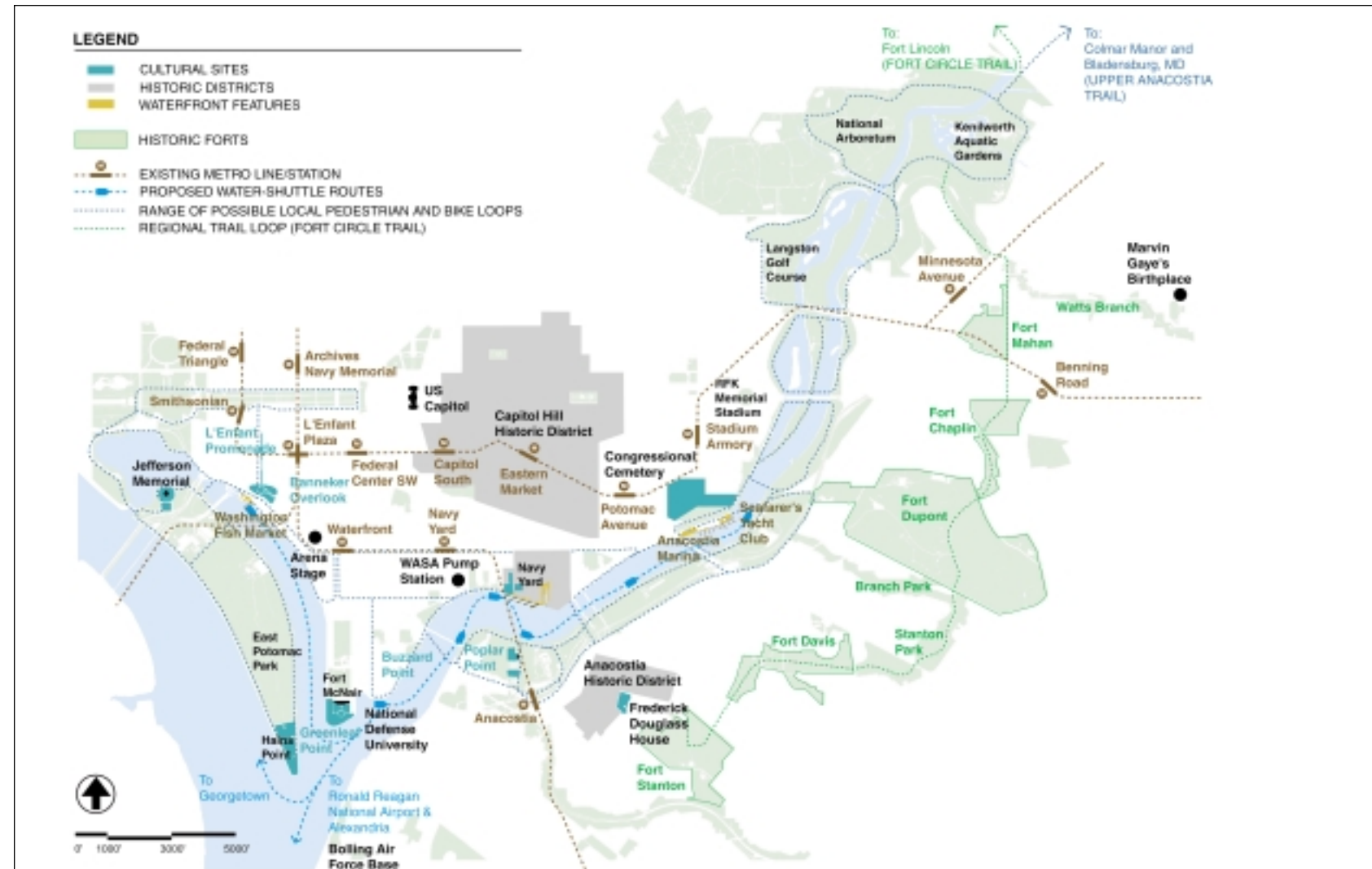
The National Defense University, Fort McNair.



The Washington Navy Yard.



Tall ships at the Southwest Waterfront.



To look at the Anacostia River in a continuous sweep is to view eight miles of urban and natural waterfront hosting a wide range of cultural and historic resources. At the moment, these assets are isolated from each other, and many are isolated from the river. Some, such as Fort McNair, with its one mile of shoreline, are closed to the public. In the case of the National Arboretum, the main entrance has been moved from its historic location facing the river to New York Avenue.

The Riverwalk and Trail, described in Chapter Three, will string these jewels on one thread, and related improvements will make them accessible from the Anacostia and nearby neighborhoods. These cultural assets will be connected by paths and walking tours, water taxis and boat tours, the proposed park road, and scheduled programs of events. A coordinated sign system for visitors will also be an important part of this effort to connect and represent sites of interest – both cultural and recreational.

Cultural and Historic Highlights

Washington Navy Yard

The Navy Yard showcases historic vessels, architecture, and the Navy Yard Museum, housed in a former gun-factory building, which hosts approximately 1,000 visitors a day. Other Navy Yard attractions include the U.S.S. Barry, the Cold War Museum, the U.S. Marine Corps Museum, and the Navy Art Gallery. During the summer, at nearby Eighth and I streets, the Marine Barracks hosts weekly parade ceremonies.

Fort Circle Parks

The Riverwalk will connect to the National Park Service's Fort Circle Parks trail, which links 68 Civil War-era forts that encircle Washington and once protected it from Confederate armies. More than 100 years ago, the siege guns of Fort Dupont guarded the 11th Street Bridges over the Anacostia.

Cedar Hill

Cedar Hill, the stately home of Frederick Douglass, sits atop rolling lawns, allowing panoramic views of the city.

Significant Historic Sites in Relation to Metro Stops and River Basins



This National Historic Site was home to Frederick Douglass from 1877 to 1895.



Historic Anacostia is on the National Register of Historic Places.



Congressional Cemetery overlooks the Anacostia River.



The Fort Circle Parks are a series of Civil War forts that surround Washington.

Frederick Douglass, renowned abolitionist, statesman, and charismatic speaker, spent the last 18 years of his life here. During this time (1877 to 1895), he held many prominent government posts, including that of U.S. Minister to Haiti. Douglass's home is managed by the National Park Service and lies within the Anacostia Historic District, an early, working-class subdivision once called Uniontown. Not far from the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, and near the Anacostia Metro station, is the Smithsonian's Anacostia Museum and Center for African-American History and Culture, with a large collection of artifacts that illuminate the life of historic African-American communities.

Congressional Cemetery

Congressional Cemetery, established by a group of private citizens in 1807 and enlarged in 1816, holds the remains of Benjamin Latrobe, architect of the Capitol, as well as the remains of many who served in Congress. On a bluff overlooking the Anacostia just north of Barney Circle and on the southern edge of Reservation 13 and RFK Stadium, it commands views downriver. It will be accessible from the Riverwalk. A water-taxi stop could serve the Cemetery as well as the proposed new neighborhood at Hill East. The Cemetery is accessible from the Potomac Avenue or Stadium-Armory Metro stations.

National Arboretum

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Arboretum serves as a cultural destination, a research institution, and a setting for quiet recreation. It occupies 446 acres with 9.5 miles of winding roadways and receives 500,000 visitors annually. The Arboretum sits at elevations from 50 to 100 feet above the river, offering views over the Anacostia to the south and east over Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens and on toward the Fort Circle Parks. Arboretum programs target gardeners and scholars alike. The AWI Framework recommends improving and strengthening the relationship among the Arboretum, the new park system, and the surrounding neighborhoods.



Destinations along the Anacostia include, from top, the National Arboretum, Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens, and the lively fish market on the Washington Channel.

What if... Footbridges Crossed the Anacostia?

What if... there was a system of exclusively pedestrian crossings over the Anacostia River?

The six major bridges over the Anacostia River were designed for automobile routes; few pedestrians or cyclists would choose to use busy South Capitol Street or Pennsylvania Avenue to cross the river. Secondary roadways – slower and less congested – serve such road-users better. Shouldn't these routes include safe and convenient ways to cross the Anacostia River?

New pedestrian bridges are proposed at the National Arboretum, Washington Channel, and Massachusetts Avenue. A fourth pedestrian bridge connecting New Jersey Avenue to Poplar Point could complete a new route between Capitol Hill and the Anacostia Historic District. This bridge would connect the new development at the Southeast Federal Center to new parks and memorials at Poplar Point on the eastern bank of the Anacostia.

What If...



What If... The L'Enfant Promenade connected to a circuit around the Tidal Basin?

If a new pedestrian bridge crossed the Tidal Basin as shown above, and the path continued under U.S. Route 1, pedestrians would have more options. They would be able to travel along and between the Tidal Basin and the L'Enfant Promenade more easily. This scheme would strengthen connections between Monumental Washington, the offerings of the Anacostia waterfront and the RiverParks system, and further expand the city's public realm.

Destinations for Celebration, Sports, and Recreation

“Each of the sites envisioned would be anchored with a nationally recognized institution to help support neighborhoods and share in the stewardship of the adjacent parks.”



The crowd cheers at RFK Memorial Stadium.



Customers browse the popular farmers market in the RFK Memorial Stadium parking lot.



The Langston Golf Course offers an 18-hole course, driving range, marinas, boat clubs, and a public boat ramp.



Rowers at the new Anacostia Community Boathouse.

The Anacostia waterfront already has several large venues for sports and entertainment. As with cultural sites, efficient transportation systems and effective sign systems will help people find and enjoy these sites more easily.

RFK Memorial Stadium

RFK Memorial Stadium at East Capitol Street hosts numerous entertainment and cultural events throughout the seasons. The stadium seats 48,000 people, regularly hosts major music concerts and festivals, and is home to the DC United and Washington Freedom professional soccer teams.

The RFK Stadium area is also host to Washington, D.C.'s largest flea and farmers market, held weekly in the stadium's parking lots. These parking areas hold much promise for locating special events along the Anacostia River.

Langston Golf Course

The historic Langston Golf Course, a leader in the desegregation of golf, offers an 18-hole course as well as a driving range and golf school. Three concession-operated marinas, four boat clubs, and a public boat ramp provide access to the tidal Anacostia River for recreational boating. In recent years Langston has developed innovative programs to reach out to Washington-area youth through its First Tee Initiative.

Kenilworth Park

Although the National Park Service owns Kenilworth Park, the Kenilworth-Parkside Recreation Area is managed and operated by the District of Columbia Department of Parks and Recreation. It offers a wide variety of activities, and facilities include a track and play equipment for children. Kenilworth Park offers some 180 acres of open area. Part of the site was once used for open burning and landfill operations, but it was reclaimed during the 1970s and converted into a multi-purpose recreation area with nine ball fields, a picnic shelter, and a comfort station. Future improvements to this area can highlight the cultural heritage of the surrounding Northeast neighborhoods through uses like outdoor concerts, and position the playing fields as a citywide resource.

The Anacostia Regatta

The river is host to the annual Anacostia Regatta, which launches from the base of the Anacostia Community Boathouse under the 11th Street Bridges and is viewed from Anacostia Park. The Regatta is an annual event of the National Capital Area Scholastic Rowing Association and is also held on two other sites in the Washington area. New marinas, boat ramps, watercraft concessions, paddle boat launching sites, and fishing piers will further reinforce the river's identity as the region's major destination for aquatic recreation. (See Chapter Three for further details).

Another benefit of first-rate facilities will be the possibility of leasing them to local universities. College-level regattas would help to enliven the Anacostia waterfront. The calm waters and slow current of the Anacostia make it one of the region's ideal rowing rivers – pointing to the expansion of rowing sports there.

A Baseball Stadium on the Waterfront

Two out of the three sites under consideration for a future Major League Baseball park in Washington are located along the Anacostia River: in the Near Southeast neighborhood between South Capitol Street, M Street, SE, and the river; and at the RFK Stadium campus. (A third site under consideration is on New York Avenue, NE.) If a Major League Baseball team is awarded to Washington, D.C., it would be housed initially at RFK Stadium while a new stadium is built on one of the three sites currently under consideration, or at another to-be-determined site within the city.

The Opportunity at Poplar Point



Poplar Point as seen from the Douglass Bridge.

Poplar Point is ideally situated near the Suitland Parkway and the Anacostia Metro, and at the visual terminus of New Jersey Avenue, with views to the U.S. Capitol. Poplar Point has long been viewed as an ideal site for a public memorial gardens, a place to combine national civic statements with educational and cultural attractions for local residents, and horticultural research located on the historic grounds of the Capitol greenhouses. (See Chapter 6, pages 114-115 for more on Poplar Point).



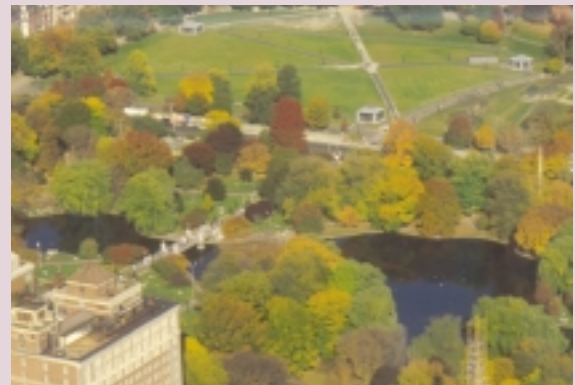
© Jason Hawkes

Battersea Park, London, sprawls along the Thames across from London's Chelsea neighborhood. Its original Victorian features include a boating lake, a serpentine carriage drive, and gardens. A mid-20th-century refurbishment of the park added more gardens, a nature reserve, and a "peace pagoda" overlooking the river.



© Alex MacLean

Grant Park, Chicago, with monumental Buckingham Fountain, serves as a formally designed front yard to the downtown Loop and one part of Chicago's extensive lakefront park system. Along its lake edge, it provides a recreational setting for joggers, strollers, and cyclists. Its geometric lawns and paths are studded with monuments.



The historic Boston Common and neighboring Public Garden form the green heart of nearly 100 acres for the city of Boston and the starting point for Boston's six-mile park system, the Emerald Necklace. Ever popular with strollers, these historic open spaces offer summer concerts, winter ice-skating, and the Public Garden's famous Swan Boat rides.

New Places for Civic Celebration and Commemoration: Monuments, Museums, and Sites for Public Art

“The capacity to deliver large crowds of people to the Southwest waterfront will make the new parks and promenade ideal for civic events and celebrations.”



Diagram from the National Capital Planning Commission Memorials and Museums Master Plan, 2000.

Two trends will focus attention on the Anacostia waterfront as a site for new institutions, monuments, and large civic gatherings and festivals. First, public and private investment around the Anacostia will open a wide range of destinations for general use. Second, the National Capital Planning Commission has placed tight limits on new memorials and museums around the Mall. Instead, it has designated the Anacostia waterfront and other parts of Washington to receive future national monuments and provide sites for civic gatherings.

Waterfront sites along the Anacostia offer distinctive advantages as settings for memorials or civic gathering places. Water naturally enhances monument settings. And these sites will be accessible from the neighborhoods bordering the river, so residents can enjoy them daily or gather there for special events.

New Civic and Cultural Sites Southwest Waterfront

The Southwest waterfront, along the Washington Channel, is currently home to a variety of restaurants, marinas, the Municipal Fish Wharf, and boat cruises. This area will have 15 acres of new public open space, reclaimed from parking lots and underused streets. The existing waterfront pedestrian promenade will be widened from 40 to 70 feet to support more waterside public seating, paths, additional waterside concessions, and outdoor restaurants. The plan for the Southwest waterfront also recommends a hotel – a principal source for year-round and evening tourist activity and a logical site for water transit facilities connecting to destinations such as Georgetown, Alexandria, the Navy Yard, and Poplar Point.

Two new parks, a Market Square at the Fish Wharf and a Civic Park at the terminus of M Street, will orient visitors to the Washington Channel with open space, lawns, and public piers. (See pages 120-121 for a plan of the Southwest Waterfront).

L'Enfant Promenade has the potential to connect the Mall to the Washington Channel. A major national museum and memorial will occupy the 10th Street Overlook at the southern terminus of the Promenade. The 10th Street Overlook will also include an underground inter-modal facility for tour buses and city transit, and more than 1,800 parking spaces. A monumental stairway would create access from the Overlook to the waterfront. This capacity to deliver large crowds of people to the Southwest waterfront will make the new parks and promenade along it an ideal setting for civic events and celebrations, including programs of multiple events in different settings, such as the Mall and the adjacent Tidal Basin.

Buzzard Point to the Navy Yard

Plans for the Southeast Federal Center – between the Navy Yard and Buzzard Point – include a continuous public promenade as part of the Riverwalk that extends to the Navy Yard and beyond. A combined network of open spaces from Buzzard Point to the Navy Yard will support everyday pedestrian access to the river from Near Southeast neighborhoods and Capitol Hill.

The river's edge will be publicly accessible, with a range of waterfront amenities, including restaurants, water shuttle service to the Southwest, and small craft rentals in a lagoon created from the historic dry-dock structures. This new environment can play host to a number of memorials, maritime heritage uses, and even new museums.

This section of the river is already home to the Earth Conservation Corps, a youth program for environmental research and public outreach. It occupies two restored structures on the river, the Matthew Henson Center in Southwest and the Capitol Pump House in Southeast. Through its educational programs designed to involve area youth in restoring the Anacostia, the Earth Conservation Corps has already brought this portion of the river to life.

Poplar Point

Poplar Point will feature an 80-acre park with open space and cultural uses for residents and visitors. The park will be accessible from the existing Anacostia Metro station, an enhanced Howard Road, future proposed water shuttle service from Southwest and Near Southeast, and from traffic on both the Suitland Parkway and the Anacostia Freeway. Improvements to Howard Road will be required to provide a suitable gateway to the park from the Anacostia Historic District.

Poplar Point Park will combine flexible open space for cultural events, including an amphitheater, educational facilities, and a new memorial of national significance on the point. This area also offers the opportunity to develop community or heritage gardens that relate to commemorative sites, such as the gardens proposed by the Anacostia Garden Club. (See pages 114-115 for more information on Poplar Point).

New Riverside Memorials and Museums

Current plans would site nearly 10 new memorials along the Anacostia's shores, with additional sites for museums. While not yet determined, these sites will be offered to appropriate institutions wishing to locate along the river in accordance with the Federal Commemorative Works Act. Each of the sites envisioned would be anchored with a nationally recognized institution to help support neighborhoods and share in the stewardship of the adjacent parks.

Place-making With Public Art

Public art contributes to the character of a place and helps us distinguish one location from another. While public art once referred only to classical statues, its definition has broadened to include many types of artwork, some formal, some casual. The wide range of expressions of public art offers a plethora of choices appropriate and meaningful to a particular place or event. Installations of public art may be permanent or temporary, as concrete as statuary or as ephemeral as lighting or music. Such art may be imposing and attention-getting or subtle and playful – a colorful weathervane or surreal mural.

The means to commission and install public art vary from city to city. In Pittsburgh, with few downtown sites for memorials or artworks, the redeveloped waterfront has become host to a series of memorials. Portland, Oregon has also established a series of memorial sites on its waterfront to help the city landscape its three miles of riverfront with private donations. Private organizations that donate memorials or maintenance of memorial sites can speed the revitalization process and improve the quality of the outcome.

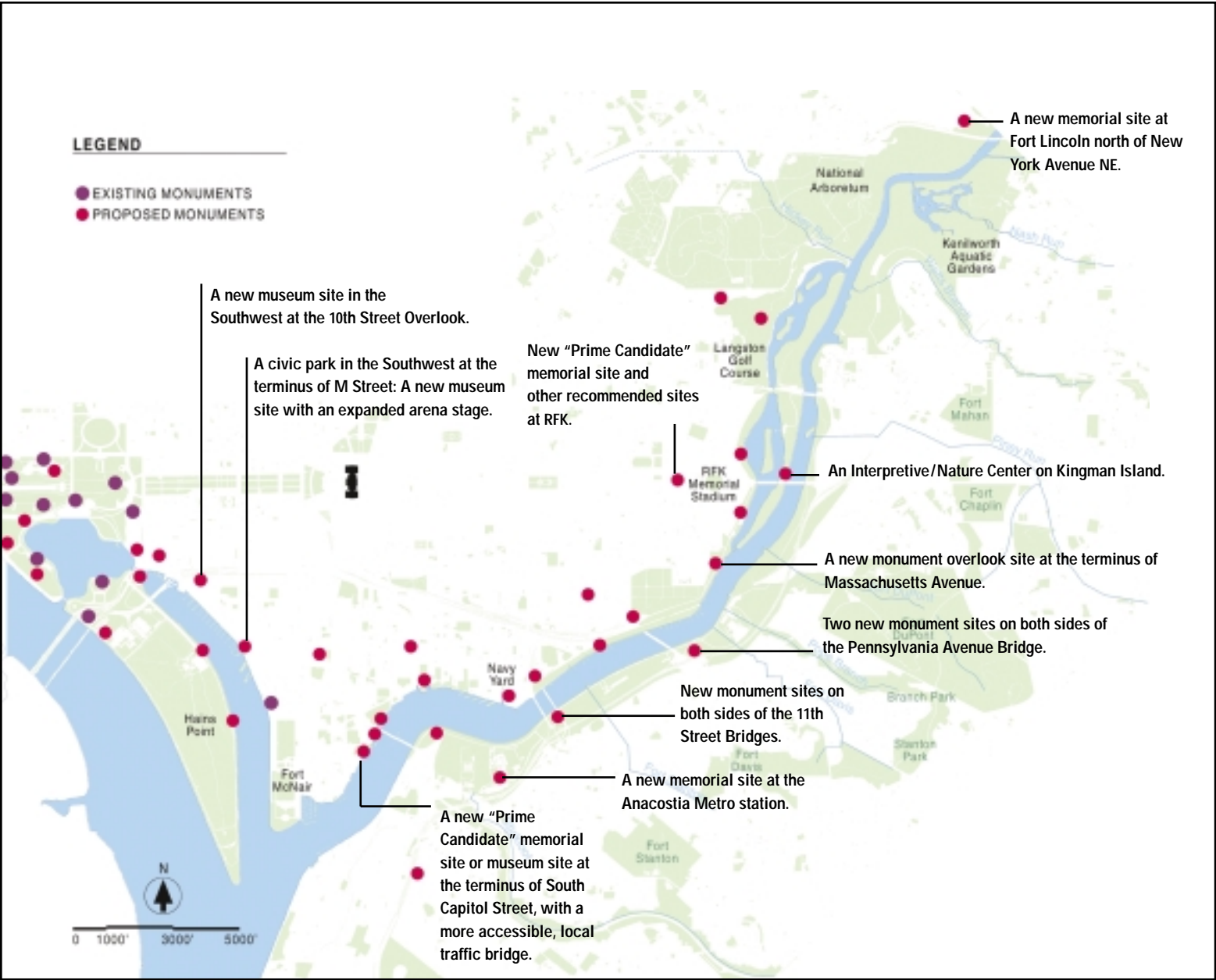
In cities with healthy development climates, private developers may be mandated, or encouraged with incentives, to provide art installations and components to waterfront development proposals, such as those at Battery Park City in New York.

Limitless opportunities for public art and monuments exist in the new developments proposed along the Anacostia water-

front. They include the park redevelopment projects, new Metro facilities, and the new bridges recommended at South Capitol Street, 11th Street and Massachusetts Avenue, as well as current construction at Benning Road. The tradition of bookend statues on bridges is particularly important in Washington, D.C., where Memorial Bridge over the Potomac and the Taft Bridge over Rock Creek Park bear monumental statues at either end, announcing their proximity to the heart of the nation's capital. The new traffic circles recommended on either side of the river are also perfect hosts for monumental art or public artworks. (See Chapter Two for bridge and traffic circle recommendations).

Murals are an informal artistic way to express neighborhood life and aspirations. These can be proposed for certain walls of new development, or to enhance older buildings. Tiles painted by neighborhood children have been used in subway station renovations in Boston and other projects in various cities. Community input must help guide neighborhood mural projects. Some walls can become canvasses for schoolchildren under the aegis of school projects or public events. Given the right colors, children are usually the freshest artists of any neighborhood, and may be invited to express their hopes for AWI projects in this way.

Temporary art should be considered in areas where long-term improvements may be scheduled but few short-term improvements are anticipated. Lighting and landform installations are relatively inexpensive and provide a radical reinterpretation of the site for interim periods of three months to two years or more.



Existing monuments and proposed sites for new monuments and museums near the Anacostia



The Iwo Jima Memorial commemorates Marine losses in WWII. It overlooks the Potomac and Washington's monuments.



The placement of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial in Roosevelt Memorial Park makes a cultural site of a recreational setting.



The Taft Bridge, with its distinctive lions, crosses Rock Creek Park in Washington.



The stateliness and grace of Memorial Bridge give Washington one of its most memorable sights.

Design Guidelines for Public Destinations of Distinct Character

“These designs will help to define Washington’s new civic identity for the 21st century.”



Venice, Italy is one of the world’s great examples of a city fully integrated with its waterfront.



Wacker Drive crosses the Chicago River on an ornamental bridge that harkens to Chicago’s turn-of-the-century expansion.



Queens West Parks, New York, New York is the setting for many varied daily uses. (Reprinted with permission of Thomas Balsley, Associates, New York, New York. Photograph by Betsy Pinover Schiff.)

To enable the eastern part of Washington to grow and flourish, the environment along the Anacostia waterfront must be more than just a collection of places. It must be united in ways suggested in the following guidelines. These guidelines comprise a riverfront design charter for all subsequent development, both public and private, along the Anacostia River. They set the stage for the discussion in Chapter Five of how to strengthen neighborhoods along the Anacostia – one of the principal goals of the AWI.

- 1 Waterfront destinations must be connected by a system of trails, paths, and open spaces, and be accessible from adjoining streets and neighborhoods.** The Riverwalk, described in Chapter Three, will interconnect the Anacostia RiverParks and the major developments proposed for Poplar Point, the Near Southeast, Hill East waterfront, and the Southwest waterfront. All public and private development at or near the waterfront must enhance connections to the Riverwalk from surrounding neighborhoods for pedestrians and cyclists. Access to the waterfront by car is also important but must be carefully managed.
- 2 The Riverwalk and Trail system must be directly connected to the bridges that cross over the Anacostia.** Each of the bridges, both existing and proposed, must accommodate visible and convenient stairs and/or ramps enabling pedestrians to move easily between the Riverwalk and the street system. This capacity is non-existent today, isolating the river from adjoining neighborhoods.

- 3 The waterfront must be better served by public transportation.** Additional transit service to areas on either side of the Anacostia is under study by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. Both the M Street Corridor to the west and the Minnesota Avenue Corridor to the east should become high priorities for eventual light-rail service. In addition, Buzzard Point should gain transit service, perhaps along an improved South Capitol Street.
- 4 The waterfront must be not only continuous, but also gracious and beautiful, and it must offer moments of extraordinary experience – new views and places that live up to the planning traditions of Washington, D.C.** Each of the main segments of the Riverwalk trail, and the new parks, such as that at Poplar Point, should be designed by the most talented landscape architects and urban designers, and to the highest aesthetic standards.

- 5 The active and varied uses associated with daily life must be distributed in complementary ways along the river and near its banks.** Great destinations are valuable and enjoyable. A continuous trail system is a great facilitator. But many people living, working and conducting their lives in the proximity of the river is what will ultimately give life to its public places!
- 6 The waterfront must have a high standard of pedestrian amenities along its length, from benches to bathrooms.** A subsequent stage of AWI planning should produce a compendium of streetscape elements for use along the Anacostia’s public environments, including specific lights and furnishings, for practical use and visual harmony.



Carefully selected streetscape elements lead the visitor to Frank Gehry's Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain.



"Waterfire," Barnaby Evans' award-winning sculpture installation, graces Providence's three rivers.



A playground on the Esplanade in Boston, Massachusetts, serves as a 'front yard' to the Back Bay neighborhoods.



A vision for a clean Anacostia River.

7 An integrated system of informational and interpretive signs must help people find their way easily throughout the Anacostia RiverParks and to all points of interest. The RiverParks must have its own signature graphic/logo, along with a comprehensive program of signs and markers, to direct users and to identify specific environments and functions, as well as to convey cultural insights about this part of Washington, D.C.

8 The water itself must be made more enjoyable to use, by improving its quality. With environmental health will come increasing interest in water activities: boating, commuting, sightseeing, swimming, sunbathing, and fishing.

9 The waterfront must provide graceful settings for telling the stories of the nation, of Washington, and its people. Washington needs to expand the geography considered appropriate for commemoration of national and local history and ideals. Public waterfronts are particularly suitable for such storytelling, and there are many worthy stories to be revealed along the Anacostia waterfront.

10 The designs of new bridges and infrastructure along the waterfront must set high standards, incorporating public artworks where possible. These designs will help to define Washington's new civic identity for the 21st century.

11 The waterfront must serve as the "front yard" for many neighborhoods; an improved river environment will help to strengthen neighborhoods that have long been there, while enabling new neighborhoods to flourish. This is the focus of the next chapter.

12 All of the above must be achieved under a mandate for environmental care to sustain, rather than abuse, natural processes. Washington's plans to improve storm water and wastewater management by 2020, through Combined Sewer Overflow controls on all outfalls to the river, must be combined with stricter environmental guidelines on future development, especially the riverfront developments proposed in this Framework. The application of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards for new construction, the reintroduction of riparian ecosystems, and the construction of wetlands and daylighting of creeks are but a few of the environmental and smart-growth initiatives that must permeate planning, design, and development. (See Chapter One for a detailed discussion of these issues.)



A Day in the Life

You love your new apartment on the Near Southeast waterfront, especially the expansive views up and down the Anacostia River. You also love being able to walk to work on M Street, SE, hop the light rail into downtown, or ride your bicycle along the Riverwalk to any number of beautiful waterfront parks. But on this lazy Sunday afternoon you're going to just take it easy. You grab a coffee, head to your favorite waterfront park spot, set out a chair, open your new book, and settle into serenity.

Artist's rendering of a new waterfront neighborhood at the Southeast Federal Center in the Near Southeast. New development at the Southeast Federal Center will include approximately 2,000 new units of housing and a waterfront park.